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PLYMPTON ST. MARY  
*RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL*



# ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1944

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR



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# **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

Telephone No. Plympton 2244.

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*Medical Officer of Health:*

DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health:*

DR. S. NOY SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

MR. R. T. FEDRICK, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Petroleum Inspector)

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

MR. R. OSBORNE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

MR. C. E. JEFFRIES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

*Clerk:*

MISS G. H. PROWSE



**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**  
**of the**  
**PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year 1944. The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 49/45.

The health of the district has been very satisfactory during the year, and the infant mortality rate of 27.62 is the lowest ever recorded for the district.

The incidence of Diphtheria is the lowest for many years, a high percentage of children in the district now being protected against this disease.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. SMALES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

October, 1945.

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**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area—70,268 acres, of which 174 are inland water.			
Population—1931 Census	...	...	26,799
„ estimated to the middle of 1944	...	...	30,030
		General	
Rateable Value	...	£190,224	
Amount produced by a 1d. Rate—			
		£785 2s. 8d.	

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1944.

Live Births.	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	510	273	237	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation, 18.08
Illegitimate	33	20	13	
	—	—	—	
	543	293	250	
	—	—	—	
Still Births	14	10	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 25.15
Deaths	397	208	189	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.22

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

*Rate per 1,000 Total  
Deaths (live and still births)*

No. 29. Puerperal and Post Abortive

Sepsis ... Nil. Nil.

No. 30. Other Maternal causes ... 2 3.59

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	27.62
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	27.45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	30.30
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	54
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

				Males	Females	1944	1943
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid						
	Fevers	...	...	—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	3	—	3	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	—	1	2
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	2
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory						
	system	...	...	6	8	14	20
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	2	3	5	4
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	1	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued.*

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1944	1943
9.	Influenza	...	...	2	—	2	6
10.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- Encephalitis	...	...	—	—	—	1
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis			—	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M.), Uterus (F.)	...	...	5	3	8	11
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	3	3	6	14
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	—	4	4	2
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	...	...	20	16	36	47
17.	Diabetes	...	...	1	6	7	4
18.	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions	...	...	24	25	49	40
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	53	37	90	94
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	4	4	8	6
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	11	9	20	20
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	2	7	9	10
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	3	1	4	4
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	3	1	4	3
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1	—	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	3	1	4	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	4	5	9	6
28.	Nephritis	...	...	4	7	11	9
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	—	2	2	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	2	4	6	3
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Disorders	...	...	4	4	8	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	3	1	4	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	4	1	5	5
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	8	15	23	14
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	32	21	53	63
				208	189	397	403



Deaths from **Cancer** are 20 less than last year, and those from **Heart Disease** are 4 less.

Of the 54 deaths due to Cancer, 28 were males and 26 were females.

### Deaths over 65.

There were 246, viz. :—41 between 65 and 70

51	„	70	„	75
62	„	75	„	80
51	„	80	„	85
32	„	85	„	90
7	„	90	„	95
2	„	95	„	100

---

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease in the district during the year was considerably lower than in 1943. The total number of notifications was 159, as compared with 936 during the previous year.

There was no case of Typhoid or Para Typhoid fever during the year.

### Scarlet Fever.

39 cases were notified compared with 33 during the previous year. They were of a mild type.

11 cases were admitted to Hospital at a cost of £85 0s. 6d., the average cost per patient being £7 14s. 7d.

The average stay in Hospital was 19 days.

Medical practitioners are encouraged to treat at home all mild cases of Scarlet Fever whenever a reasonable degree of isolation can be obtained in the patient's home, unless in the patient's interest hospital treatment is indicated.

TABLE SHOWING PREVALENCE OF SCARLET FEVER IN SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT,  
YEAR 1944.

SCHOOL	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Cornwood ....	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
Plymstock Senior ....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Plympton Junior ....	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Newton Ferrers ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	4
Ivybridge ....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Sparkwell ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Oreston ....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Tamerton Foliot ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Plympton Grammar ....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Private ....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	4
TOTALS ....	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	-	6	2	2	22

### **Diphtheria.**

During the year there was a marked decline in the number of cases of Diphtheria, 18 cases being notified as compared with 37 for the previous year.

The disease was generally of a mild type and there were no deaths.

18 cases and 1 carrier were admitted to Hospital (including 8 to the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, Modbury), at a cost of £362 10s. 0d., the average cost per patient being £20 2s. 9d.

The average stay in hospital was 46 days.

During the year 61 swabs were submitted to the County Laboratory in connection with Diphtheria cases, contacts and suspects, and in following up cases after discharge from Hospital.

Every attempt should be made by means of bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

I should like to place on record the valuable assistance received from the County Laboratory on all occasions and the very prompt despatch by them of information regarding specimens submitted.

In urgent cases swabs may be sent to the Laboratory at the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Plymouth.

I would again emphasize that in the treatment of Diphtheria serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

The following cases were also admitted to Hospital during the year :—

- 4 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.
- 1 case of Whooping Cough.
- 2 cases of Erysipelas.
- 1 case of Dysentery.
- 2 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis.

### **Disinfection.**

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

TABLE SHOWING PREVALENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

YEAR 1944.

SCHOOL	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Goosewell     ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Oreston     ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Plymstock     ....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ivybridge     ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hooe     ....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cornwood     ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS     ....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	7



# PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR YEAR 1944.

DISEASE.	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Plympton St. Mary	Plympton St. Maurice	Plymstock	Shaugh Prior	Tamerton Foliot	Wembury	Yealington	Totals
SCARLET FEVER ...	-	2	5	-	2	-	3	6	9	-	10	-	1	-	1	39
DIPHTHERIA ...	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	18
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
PNEUMONIA ...	1	1	2	1	-	-	4	4	9	3	8	-	-	-	-	33
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ERYSIPELAS ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	-	4	-	-	-	1	13
WHOOPING COUGH ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	1	5	3	-	1	-	28
MEASLES ...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	8
CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER ...	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
DYSENTERY ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
MALARIA ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
GASTRO ENTERITIS ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
UNDULANT FEVER ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS ...	2	6	10	4	2	-	11	13	48	6	43	3	2	1	8	159



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND TOTAL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1944.

AGE PERIODS (NOTIFICATIONS)																	AGE PERIODS (DEATHS).											
Under one year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	Removed to Hospital	Naval and Military Cases	Under one Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	
SCARLET FEVER ...	2	1	1	2	18	9	1	4	-	1	-	39	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DIPHTHERIA ...	-	-	-	2	6	3	2	5	-	-	-	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PNEUMONIA ...	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	6	2	14	7	33	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
OPHTHALMIA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NEONATORUM ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	7	1	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ERYSIPELAS ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WHOOPING COUGH	4	6	5	1	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MEASLES ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DYSENTERY ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MALARIA ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GASTRO ENTERITIS	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
UNDULANT FEVER ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
TOTALS ...	8	10	7	7	5	35	17	4	25	9	23	9	40	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

**TUBERCULOSIS.**  
**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.**

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES						DEATHS						Total No. of Deaths		
	PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.			PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.				Total No. of Cases	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
Under 1 Year	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—5	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—10	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10—15	...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15—20	...	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
20—25	...	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	1
25—35	...	5	3	8	-	1	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	9	4
35—45	...	5	4	9	1	-	1	2	3	5	1	1	2	10	7
45—55	...	5	2	7	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1	7	3
55—65	...	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
65 and upwards		-	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	2	3	4
TOTALS	...	19	18	37	1	3	4	6	8	14	2	3	5	41	19

With regard to the extent of notification before death, the following table shows the date of notification :—

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Date Notified.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
M.	36	8/ 2/38	26/ 1/44
F.	39	21/ 9/39	19/10/44
F.	41	31/ 5/40	7/ 9/44
M.	54	17/11/41	—/ 6/44
M.	26	21/11/41	28/ 1/44
M.	69	5/ 9/42	20/10/44
F.	27	31/ 3/43	8/ 1/44
M.	45	21/ 4/43	30/10/44
M.	43	1/ 9/43	8/ 3/44
M.	48	26/11/43	—/ 6/44
F.	24	16/ 1/44	26/ 6/44
F.	78	26/ 1/44	1/ 2/44
M.	35	27/ 1/44	25/ 2/44
F.	30	11/ 2/44	4/ 2/44
F.	36	3/ 5/44	25/ 5/44

The remainder were not notified in this District previous to death.

With regard to Tuberculosis affecting employees in the milk trade, no case had to be dealt with, nor had any action to be taken with regard to the compulsory removal to Hospital under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

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## SCHOOLS.

### Exclusions.

During the year 60 notices were received referring to 208 children who were excluded from School because of communicable disease or because they were contacts in infected houses.

They were as follows :—Diphtheria, 9 ; Scarlet Fever, 11 ; Chicken Pox, 49 ; Measles, 17 ; Whooping Cough, 2 ; Impetigo, 2 ; Mumps, 59 ; Scabies, 17 ; Ring Worm, 2 ; Jaundice, 4 ; Influenza, 3 ; Colds, 16 ; Conjunctivitis, 3 ; Bronchitis, 2 ; German Measles, 11 ; Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 1.



**Diphtheria Immunisation** is carried on vigorously in the district. All parents are informed, when their children reach 1 year of age, that they should be protected. Clinics were held in the district on 21 occasions, when 235 children received two injections, and 105 the first injection only.

It is estimated that 64% of the children under five years and 94.6% of children of school age have now been protected.

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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

**Nursing Arrangements.**—The Medical Officer of Health is empowered to engage and pay for home Nursing when he considers it necessary and when it cannot be provided otherwise.

There are district Nursing Associations in Plympton St. Mary, Plympton St. Maurice, Shaugh Prior, Cornwood, Yealmpton, Brixton and Ivybridge, which are maintained by private subscriptions, aided by grants from the Devon County Council.

**District Nurses.** There are seven District Nurses in the Rural District.

**Health Visitors.**—There are three working in the Plympton Area. They also act as School Nurses, Tuberculosis and Child Life Protection visitors.

**Midwives.**—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There are 10 practising midwives in the District.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

**Maternity and Child Welfare.**—The Devon County Council have six centres in the District: Plympton, Pymstock, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Tamerton Foliot and Wotter.

**Venereal Diseases Clinic.**—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Where on account of the difficulty of travelling or other reason a patient is unable to attend the centre, free treatment can be obtained from certain specified general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226.

**In-patient Orthopaedic Treatment** is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics at Exeter and Ivybridge, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients the South West Clinic which deals with this district is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

**X-rays.**—The Devon County Council have Clinics at Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum** cases are admitted at any time to the Treatment Centre, City Hospital, Plymouth. In Midwives cases, free treatment is available.

**Tuberculosis.**—There is a sanatorium at Hawkmoor, Bovey Tracy, to which an extension is now being made.

There are also the following hospitals: Hawley Hospital, Barnstaple, and Ivybank Hospital, Exeter.

**Open-Air School.**—For delicate children. Oaklands Park, Dawlish (Devon County Council).

North Devon Open-Air School and Convalescent Home, Lynton (Private). Recognised by the Board of Education.

There is a Tuberculosis Officer who visits the district in consultation with practitioners. A number of patients are sent to the Clinic at Torquay for an opinion and radiography, but the majority of patients are seen in their homes and X-rayed at Plymouth, the skiagrams sent to the Tuberculosis Officer.



**Institutional Provision** for married and unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Underwood House, Plympton (Plympton St. Mary Public Assistance Committee).

Temporary arrangements with Ministry of Health Short Stay Residential Nursery, Coombe Royal, Kingsbridge.

**General Hospitals**, used by residents :—

Prince of Wales's Hospital (Greenbank Section), Plymouth.

„ „ (Devonport Section).

„ „ Lockyer Street, Plymouth.

The City Hospital, Plymouth.

The Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

The Ear and Throat Hospital, Plymouth.

The House of Rest, Plympton.

The Convalescent Home, Crownhill.

Plymouth Public Dispensary.

**Isolation Hospital.**—None in the District, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring Hospital treatment may be sent to the City Isolation Hospital. A charge of 9/- a day is made by the Plymouth Corporation, together with the cost of removal.

Arrangements were also made with the Kingsbridge R.D.C. to send cases to the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at Modbury. A charge of 7/6 a day is made for patients sent to this hospital.

**Small Pox Hospital.**—The Plympton Rural District Council have allowed the Plymouth Corporation to use their Small Pox Hospital at Lee Mill as a Nurses' Home in connection with the Lee Mill Isolation Hospital, so there is now no accommodation available in the district for cases of Small Pox. Accommodation is available, however, at the Devon County Council Small Pox Hospital at Upton Pyne, near Exeter.

**Ambulance Facilities for Infectious cases.**—No ambulance is available locally and often great difficulty is experienced in the removal of infectious cases to hospital.

A.R.P. ambulances with the consent of the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer have been made use of for this purpose. This arrangement has been very useful.

**Non-Infectious cases and Accidents.**—The St. John Ambulance Association provide cars.

**Laboratory Work.**—The County Council have at Exeter a Bacteriological Laboratory for the investigation of communicable diseases as bearing upon Public Health, and for the provision of a diagnostic and consultative bacteriological service for patients, and also for the examination of milk and water from public supplies.

Use is also made of the Plymouth Laboratory for work of a specially urgent nature.

**Consultants.**—Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Council, who have appointed Consultants who are available for consultation by Medical Practitioners in cases of Puerperal Pyrexia or of any abnormality of pregnancy or childbirth.

Before calling in Consultants, other than in cases of urgency, the County Medical Officer must be consulted.

**Provision of Anti-Toxin.**—Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is provided free of cost by the district Council and supplied on the Authority of the Medical Officer of Health to any Medical man practising in the district. Early and adequate doses should be given.

**Scabies.**—There was a marked decrease in the incidence of scabies during the year. Cases continued to be treated at Lower Coombe Royal Scabies Hostel, Kingsbridge. All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate solution.

**Disinfestation.**—A hot air disinfestor (Military) has been supplied on loan by the Ministry of Health and is in use at Plympton.

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## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, with the exception of occasional shortages on the higher levels at Plymstock and Newton Ferrers, aggravated by the large service demands occasioned by the war. The Lee Moor supply is unreliable and liable to pollution, and will be abandoned when further alternative supplies are available. In the meantime the supply is chlorinated.

This Council has promoted a Bill in Parliament (1944) to obtain water from the River Erme in order to improve the water supplies of the district, and to provide sufficient water for estimated future requirements.

Five samples of raw water were examined during the year. Eleven samples of moorland water (Yealm Head) going into supply were examined, all were satisfactory.

In no instance was the presence of lead detected in any of the samples submitted for chemical examination.

All water from the Yealm Head, Ivybridge and Lee Moor supplies is chlorinated.

It is estimated that about 77% of the houses in the district are served by mains, 16% are supplied by means of standpipes, the remaining 7% being supplied from private sources.

Approximately 75% of the population are served from the mains, 17% from standpipes, and 8% from private supplies.

<i>Source</i>	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>B. Coli Absent in 100 c.c.</i>	<i>B. Coli Present in 100 c.c.</i>
PLYMPTON ... ..	11	9	2
YEALM HEAD ... ..	11	11	—
IVYBRIDGE ... ..	12	11	1



Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows:—

**Bickleigh.** Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

**Brixton.** Supplied from Council's Yealm supply. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are two standpipes in the village.

Brixton Torr, Coombe and Hornicombe are small places supplied by a local spring piped to standpipes.

**Cornwood.** Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have a piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

**Lutton.** Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have piped supply. There are six standpipes in the village.

**Ermington.** Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Westlake and Longbrook are supplied by well and pump.

**Harford.** Few houses—have own supply from spring (private).

**Holbeton.** Supplied from local springs, piped to village. A few houses have a piped supply, but most of the cottages are supplied from standpipes.

**Ivybridge.** Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Most houses have piped supply.

**Newton and Noss.** Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply.

There are 10 standpipes at Newton supplying the older cottages and five standpipes at Noss supplying the older cottages.

**Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice.** Supplied from Lee Moor and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supply.

**Sparkwell.** Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes which supply the older cottages.

**Lee Mill.** Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Some of the houses have piped supply. There are seven standpipes in the village.

**Mount Pleasant and Venton.** Supplied from local springs by pump and standpipes.

**Plymstock.** Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are six standpipes at Lower Hooe and Turnchapel.

**Staddiscombe.** Some of the cottages have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

**Shaugh Prior.** Supplied from local source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

**Wotter.** Supplied from local source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes which supply cottages of Dartmoor China Clay Co.

**Tamerton Foliot.** Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

**Wembury.** Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

**Down Thomas.** Supplied from Yealm source. Most houses have piped supply.

**Yealmpton.** Supplied from local springs, augmented from Yealm source in dry periods. Most houses have piped supply. There are eight standpipes in the village.

**Dunstone.** Supplied from local springs. Several cottages have piped supply. There are five standpipes in the village.

All the villages consisting of more than a dozen houses have a piped supply.

All supplies are constant.

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Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.  
(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

PREMISES. (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	14	-	-
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	8	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises). ...	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	22	-	-

Outworkers.—1 visit was made to the home of an outworker, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.  (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)		
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7) {	1	1	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences ...	-	-	-	-	-
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)					
TOTAL ...	1	1	-	-	-

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	57
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	127
(2) (a)	No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	17
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	40
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	—
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	56

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	43
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## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

## A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	2
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- |   |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 5 |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—        |        |   |
| (a) By owners   | ... .. | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners   |        | — |

## C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |  |        |   |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | — |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... .. | — |

## D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |  |        |   |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  |        | — |
| (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | — |



## WATER CONNECTIONS, 1944.

PARISH	Total	Including Meters	Con- nections during 1944
Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice ... ..	2229	86	6
Plymstock ... ..	3074	137	7
Yealmpton ... ..	113	20	4
Brixton ... ..	103	4	1
Ivybridge ... ..	489	26	1
Cornwood ... ..	46	3	3
Wembury ... ..	265	34	4
Newton and Noss ... ..	288	14	1

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL  
HOUSES DURING 1944.

PARISH	No. of Plans Approved	Repre- senting No. of Houses	Houses Com- pleted	Layout Plans Approved
Brixton ... ..	1	2	—	1
Cornwood ... ..	1	1	—	—
Plympton St. Mary ... ..	1	1	—	2
Plymstock ... ..	2	2	—	2
Shaugh Prior ... ..	1	1	—	—
Wembury ... ..	2	2	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	8	9	—	5



## WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1944.

### Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Houndall Reservoir cleaned out.

The sand of six filter beds at Houndall Waterworks removed and cleaned and new sand added as necessary.

Chlorination plant at Houndall Waterworks doubled in capacity.

Twenty-nine static water tanks for fire guards erected at Plymstock.

200 iron water tanks distributed for Fire Guard purposes.

7,000 Sandbags filled and distributed to sector points.

Air raid damage repairs carried out to 1,000 houses.

### Refuse Disposal.

During the year 5,559 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

The weight of material salvaged and sold was 356 tons.

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## REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending the 31st December, 1944.

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### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

#### INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	40
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1936	...	17	
Houses inspected for overcrowding	...	...	24
Factories	...	...	22
Outworkers	...	...	1
Bakehouses and other Food Shops	...	...	111
Slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, farms, etc.	...	...	191
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	...	...	1323
Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928	...	...	7
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	80
Complaints investigated	...	...	134
Schools Inspected	...	...	9
Public Conveniences Inspected	...	...	10
Piggeries Inspected	...	...	10
Camps Inspected	...	...	5

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#### WORK DONE.

Public sewers repaired	...	...	11
New drains laid to sewers	...	...	7
New drains laid to cesspits	...	...	15
Old drains repaired	...	...	15
Smoke tests made	...	...	35
Water tests	...	...	3
W.C. Apartments built	...	...	5

New W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Soil pipes and vent-shafts—erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Intercepting Chambers built and traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspect on Chambers built	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kitchen sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Kitchen ranges or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Staircases repaired or lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Courts, yards, or passages paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Gutters and downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors repaired, renewed, or sub-floor ventilation obtained	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Samples of water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Larders	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are now 372 on the registers ; 237 wholesale producers ; 37 wholesale producers who also retail some portion of their milk ; 79 producer retailers and 19 retailers only.

In regard to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the position at the end of the year was as follows:—1 Tuberculin Tested (Certified) producer, 2 Tuberculin Tested producers, and 55 Accredited producers.

2 new cowsheds were built during the year on modern lines and construction.



Improvements to the interior of 14 cowsheds were carried out. New concrete cribs were formed at 7 cowsheds. The yard and approach to the cowsheds was improved at 11 farms.

The lighting and ventilation of 12 cowsheds was improved.

Steam sterilising apparatus was installed at 3 farms.

At 4 cowsheds the water supply and drainage was improved.

1,323 visits of inspection have been made during the year, and numerous verbal and written notices have been given to owners and tenants regarding the condition of their premises, and the personal cleanliness and milking methods of employees.

### **MILK SAMPLES SENT TO THE DEVON COUNTY LABORATORY.**

During the year the total number of Samples of Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, School and Ordinary Milk, including repeat samples following failures, sent to the County Laboratory for examination was 317.

Of these 184 passed and 133 failed.

Visits are made following the failure of samples, and advice given to the producers in question. A leaflet, couched in simple language, is available for the help and guidance of milkers and given to those producers whose samples failed to pass the test. Generally speaking, however, the shortage of labour is one of the major causes of failed samples.

### **WORK DONE UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

**Housing Inspections.**—See table in Medical Officer of Health's section of the Report.

**Overcrowding.**—24 complaints of overcrowding were investigated. 18 proved to be groundless, while the remainder were not abated at the end of the year.

Cases of gross overcrowding occasionally come to light, but there must be many other cases not discovered under present conditions.



## **Rodent Control.**

Occupiers of land are becoming increasingly conscious of the importance of Rodent Control.

Early in January the Council engaged a full-time Rodent Operative, who attended lectures and demonstrations arranged by the Infestation Division, Ministry of Food, and also received practical training.

A large number of requests for help were received during the year, and numerous inspections were made, advice given, and where possible traps were loaned. The Rodent Operative also carried out operations at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tips and other Council properties.

The administrative work in connection with Rodent Control, together with the preparation of poisoned bait, was carried out in addition to my other duties, but judging by the results, was well worth while.

The methods advocated by the Infestation Branch, Ministry of Food were strictly adhered to, with very satisfactory results. During the year 30 major poisoning operations were carried out, and judging by the amount of poisoned bait consumed and the number of bodies found a considerable number of rats were accounted for.

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## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES, BUTCHER SHOPS, AND FOOD PREMISES.**

Most of the meat retained in the District is examined outside the district at the time of slaughter.

156 visits to farms and cottages were made, to examine carcasses in respect of which permits to slaughter had been issued by the Food Office. 29 visits were made to Butcher Shops, 6 visits were made to a slaughterhouse.

The carcasses and organs of 156 pigs were examined. The amount of meat and organs condemned as unfit for human consumption was 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.

111 Food Shops, including bakehouses were visited, and a total of 19 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lbs. unsound food condemned as unfit for human consumption. In most cases this was used for animal feeding.

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

82 premises were inspected during the year.

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## PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1944, to the 31st March, 1945.

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### PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

No. of licences renewed during the above period	...	...	70
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### CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

No. of licences renewed during the above period	...	...	6
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The total fees collected in respect of both Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium Licences amounted to £33 5s. 10d.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. T. FEDRICK,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



